exemption from excise duty on certain specific products manufactured in rural areas by registered cooperative societies or by women's societies or by institutions recognised by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission or by the State Khadi and Village Industries or by units run with the cash assistance from District Rural Development Agencies under the Integratec Rural Development Programme (IRDP). As regards sales tax, it is a state subject of taxation under the Constitution

Different levels of Excise Levy for identical products

903. SHRI M VINCENT: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether Government levy different levels of excise duties for the same product, like synthetic detergents having different quality norms, and

(b) whether Government are considering higher levels of excise duties on products which have harmful effects on the consumers so as to discourage production of such products and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Excise duty is levied on goods manufactured in the country and generally the rate of duty chargeable on goods is uniform irrespective of the quality.

(b) Presently, there is no proposal for imposing higher levels of excise duty in general on products which are harmful to the consumers. However, certain items like cigarettes, tobacco, pan masala are already subjected to relatively high levels of excise duty, which is likely to affect the excise consumption of such items.

Selling of Reliance Shares by L & T

904 SHRI M. VINCENT
SHRI RAJUBHAI A PARMAR

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state.

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 14-10-1990 to the effect that Larsen and Toubro (L&T) have sold 50 lakh Reliance shares,

(b) if so, whether Government made any enquiry to find out whether the established stock exchange regulations were adhered to in the sale of these shares,

(c) whether Government also enquired into the allegation that the rate of the shares prevalent at that time was about Rs 30 per share which was higher than the price registered with Larsen and Toubro;

(d) if so, what are the names of the brokers involved in the sale of these shares;

(e) whether Government have ascertained whether these brokers are relatives of some of the Directors of L&T Board and if so, what is the outcome of the enquiry and what action has been taken thereon, and

(f) whether Government propose to hold any CBI enquiry covering all aspects of sale of these shares?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (f) It is for the management of a company to decide when and in what manner any shares held by it should be sold. However, allegations contained in the news-item relating to sale of shares by L&T published in

newspapers were looked into, and *prima facie* it was seen that no illegality was committed by L&T in the sale of these shares. The question of holding any CBI enquiry does not, therefore, arise.

राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा बट्टे खाते डाली जाने वाली ऋण की राशि की मात्रा

905. **श्री राम जेठमलानी :**
सरदार जगजीत सिंह अरोड़ा :

क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि राष्ट्रीयकृत बैंकों द्वारा बट्टे खाते डाली जाने वाली ऋण की राशि की मात्रा प्रति वर्ष बढ़ती जा रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1988-89 और 1989-90 में ऋण की कितनी राशि बट्टे खाते डाली गई ;

(ग) क्या यह भी सच है कि ऐसे उद्योगों को मजूर की गई ऋण की राशि में भी वृद्धि हो रही है जिन्हें रुग्ण घोषित कर दिया गया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो 1989-90 के अंत में इस प्रकार के उद्योगों में ऋण की कितनी राशि फंसी हुई थी ?

वित्त मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री और विदेश मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री दिग्विजय सिंह) : (क) और (ख) सरकारी क्षेत्र के बैंकों को नियंत्रित करने वाली सांविधियों और बैंकरों में प्रचलित रीति रिवाजों के अनुसार बैंक ऐसे अशोध्य और संदिग्ध ऋणों को प्रकट नहीं करते हैं जिनके लिए उनके लेखा परीक्षकों की तसल्ली के मुताबिक व्यवस्था की गई हो तथा साथ ही अशोध्य ऋणों की बट्टे खाते डाली गई राशि को भी प्रकट नहीं करते ।

(ग) और (घ) भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पास उपलब्ध अद्यतन समेकित आंकड़ों के अनुसार दिसम्बर, 1988 के अन्त तक की स्थिति के अनुसार रुग्ण औद्योगिक एककों से संबंधित बैंकों के बकाया ऋण की राशि 5528.30 करोड रुपए थी ।

Revision of pay scales of Assistants and UDCs

906. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have revised the pay scale of Assistants from Rs. 1400—2600 to *Rs 1640—2900*,

(b) if so, what are the details of the Ministries, departments and other organisations where the revised scale has been implemented;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering the case of revision of pay scale of Upper Division Clerks and grant them the pay scale of Rs 1400—2600 from Rs 1200—2040; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and by when a decision is likely to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) (a) and (b) The pay scale of the Assistants in Ministries/Departments participating in the Central Secretariat Service Scheme has been revised *vide* Department of Personnel O.M No 2/1/90-CS IV dated 31-7-1990—copy enclosed. (*See* below As per the said O.M the revised scale of pay is also applicable to organisations like Ministry of External Affairs which are not participating in the C.S.S Scheme but where the posts are in comparable grades with same classification and pay scales and the method of recruitment through Open Competitive Examination is also the same.